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Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region

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Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum**

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* A/64/150.

** This information was received after the submission of the main report.

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Lebanon

[Original: Arabic]
[30 July 2009]

Reply of the Ministry of Defence

The Ministry of Defence reiterates the substance of its previous letter No. 854/4/2007, in which it indicated that Lebanon is committed to United Nations resolutions and cooperates in combating terrorism, international crime, the illicit transport of weapons and the illicit production, use and trafficking of drugs in the Mediterranean region and worldwide.

Reply of the Ministry of the Interior and Municipalities

Strengthening security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region is the primary goal of the security forces, which cooperate with international organizations to that end. That cooperation is manifest through their active participation in such relevant international conferences and courses as, inter alia, the conference of the Council of Arab Interior Ministers, with a view to curbing the spread of terrorism and combating organized crime. The security forces also organize internal training courses taught by foreign instructors and send officers and other security personnel abroad to participate in specialist courses in order to ensure that they remain up to date with methods of suppressing the above-mentioned crimes, which threaten our society and environment. We also believe that is imperative to remain united in order to combat crime outside our country's geographical area and implement international resolutions concerning cooperation in combating terrorism and organized crime.

Lebanon strives to play its role, at both the regional and international levels, in a manner that is commensurate with the importance of its geographical location, inasmuch as it lies on the eastern shore of the Mediterranean and serves as the gateway of the Arab States to the Mediterranean basin and a link between the East and the West.

On the basis of the foregoing, and in accordance with the laws currently in force, including, inter alia, the Penal Code, the Weapons and Ammunition Act and various international instruments, and the instructions of the Government, the Lebanese security forces strive to combat crime, especially terrorism, international crime, organized national and transnational crime, the illicit transfer and smuggling of arms, and the cultivation, production and trafficking of narcotics. They do so at the national level, at the level of the Mediterranean region and at the international level.

To that end, our security forces coordinate and cooperate with the security forces of all States in the region (with the exception of the Israeli enemy), relevant United Nations organizations, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the States members of the Council of Arab Interior Ministers.

With the approval of the Public Prosecutor of the Court of Cassation, the Counter-Terrorism and Serious Crimes Division, in coordination with all Lebanese security forces, executes the requests and acts in accordance with telegrams forwarded by the General Directorate of the Internal Security Forces (General Staff,

International Liaison Department), thus clearly demonstrating Lebanon's commitment to international cooperation in respect of security and combating crime.

Examples of such cooperation include, but are not restricted to, the following:

- Implementation of the special notices issued by the United Nations Security Council regarding persons and entities that should be subjected to sanctions, including freezing of assets and the imposition of bans on travel and the import of weapons;
- Implementation of sanctions against persons or entities associated with Al-Qaida and the Taliban or other terrorist movements;
- Implementation of sanctions against persons and entities as part of the sanctions imposed on certain States, including Liberia and the Congo;
- Doing all that is necessary to execute Red, Green, Blue and Orange Notices issued by INTERPOL;
- Execution of requests for legal assistance from other States with regard to specific security and police matters;
- Execution of requests from the security and judicial authorities of various States for information regarding individuals and their criminal records.

In addition, the General Directorate of Internal Security Forces dispatches officers from all the internal security forces, each within their area of specialization, to attend Arab, regional, European and international seminars and conferences on coordination between international security forces in combating crime, particularly terrorism, drug offences, organized crime and money-laundering.

Summary

At the outset of the twenty-first century, it has become clear that crime is no longer confined to a particular area, region or country. Rather, the entire world is a stage upon which crimes are perpetrated, particularly in this age of globalization, with its technological advancements in the area of communications, which have enabled criminal organizations to extend the scope of their activities. In order to be successful in combating crime, it is therefore imperative to strengthen security and cooperation between the various law enforcement agencies at the level of the Arab States and the States of the Mediterranean basin and at the international level.

Spain

[Original: Spanish]
[10 July 2009]

For historical and geographical reasons, the Mediterranean region has always been a priority for Spain in all respects. The latest National Defence Directive, No. 1/2008 of 30 December 2008, states that "the security of Spain is also tied to the security of the Mediterranean region; it is therefore crucial that the Mediterranean become an area of peace, stability, and shared prosperity". The Mediterranean region therefore requires a framework for ongoing action and decision-making with regard to the development of a defence policy at this time of extraordinary intensity.

The Spanish defence policy for the Mediterranean region, furthermore, was developed in line with the general action strategy and guidelines for the current Spanish defence policy:

- It complies rigorously with international law;
- It is a policy with a strong multilateral focus that was developed within the framework of various initiatives and organizations with which we are involved: the Union for the Mediterranean, formerly known as the Barcelona Process, within the context of the European Union; the Mediterranean Dialogue within the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; the activities carried out with the members of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe; and the "Five plus Five" Initiative, in which we, together with nine other countries along either side of the Mediterranean, participate. In all these multilateral forums, Spain has consistently demonstrated an active and highly committed policy in terms of its respective roles in the Mediterranean;
- In addition to this multilateral focus, Spain supports all security and defence initiatives that facilitate dialogue and promote bilateral cooperation among countries in the Mediterranean region, especially through defence diplomacy.

This is a policy that reflects a high level of commitment, as our presence in the eastern Mediterranean testifies. In Lebanon, as part of the complex mission of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, there are 1,100 troops working for global stability in a specific area with many implications for the surrounding Middle East region, but also for the entire world.

The Spanish defence policy is also characterized in many ways by its purpose: peace. Indeed, it seeks to build trust through cooperation; proposes action strategies and objectives for the international community; and plays a role in conflict resolution. This responsibility is not shouldered by the Ministry of Defence alone, as it is based on a multidisciplinary approach and coordinated action by all the relevant public agencies, as well as on the combined efforts of civil and military instruments of both the public and private sectors.

The failure to find a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict is one of the primary causes of instability in the Mediterranean and constitutes a serious obstacle for cooperation in that region. It is therefore a priority of Spain in its activities abroad to promote a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East, on the basis of the international community's consensus on the urgent need to adopt and implement without delay the solution of two States, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security. Spain believes that such a solution must be accompanied by the forging of peace between Israel and its other Arab neighbours and of a new relationship between Israelis and the Arab and Muslim world. Working together with other members of the European Union and of the Quartet, as well as the Arab States, Spain will spare no effort in making progress towards that objective. It is crucial to bring about the resumption of the political process between the parties, thus helping to build mutual trust, and to avoid a crisis or anything that could reverse the progress made thus far, such as settlement expansion or further outbreaks of violence in Gaza. Spain will continue to support a solution based on international law and the mutual agreement of both parties.

However, it cannot be denied that the Mediterranean is a region of highly complex and diverse social, religious, economic and value systems; therefore, the

greatest challenge is finding and developing strategies that foster integration and cooperation. A mechanism that would seek to achieve a stable and peaceful Mediterranean region must be based on a view of the Mediterranean Sea not as a dividing line, but rather as a bridge allowing for the convergence of many commercial, political and cultural interests, as strongly advocated by the Alliance of Civilizations initiative.

There is, furthermore, a significant difference in perceptions, including with regard to security and defence. The establishment of a system of measures to foster trust and security among the Mediterranean countries may be essential. In that regard, a system of proven effectiveness, such as that which already exists within OSCE, could be a good starting point if adapted to the Mediterranean context.

The system could be based on a Mediterranean security map that would consider the geographical region of the Mediterranean as an integral security area and would include a series of measures to foster trust and security, a code of good conduct for Mediterranean countries, and a mechanism for exchanging information which would allow Mediterranean countries to better coordinate their individual security agendas.

The measures to be promoted in order to foster mutual trust and thus strengthen security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region include the following:

- Increased cooperation to meet global security challenges: proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, organized crimes, mass population flows and drug trafficking;
- Establishment of mechanisms for consultation and exchange of military information;
- Cooperation in establishing mechanisms for conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation;
- Promotion of the signing and ratification of international treaties and agreements on disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation, and upholding their objectives;
- Promotion of the establishment of a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery,
- Strengthening cooperation and integration among Mediterranean countries and furthering their contribution to peacekeeping operations, especially those linked to that geographical area;
- Reinforcement of cooperation and assistance programmes in the area of security and defence, and promotion of the exchange of military units and observers in exercises, training, visits to military units or meetings among General Staff;
- Expanding and strengthening mechanisms for armed forces support to the civilian authorities in the event of an emergency or disaster;
- Establishing a permanent defence school for the Mediterranean region, similar to the NATO Defense College or the European Security and Defence College;

- Strengthening cooperation programmes on maritime security and the control of maritime traffic;

- Continuation of the "International Seminars on Security and Defence in the Mediterranean", which have been held annually in Barcelona since 2002, with a view to contributing to the political and academic debate on security and defence in the Mediterranean.